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CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**COUNTRY East GermanyREPORT TOPIC Military Activities at the Zeithain Training Grounds and Riesa

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

22 March 1955

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REFERENCES PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. Between 2 and 7 March 1955, The Mudra Kaserne (1801) in Riesa was occupied by approximately 300 soldiers wearing black-bordered black and blue-bordered black epaulets including some with construction engineer and bridge-construction engineer insignia, and approximately 120 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. The latter soldiers were believed to belong to the 85-mm AA guns recently observed in the installation. An unusually large number of field-grade officers and a general were seen entering and leaving the installation. Sedan occupied by a colonel of the armored command, presumably the commanding officer of a unit stationed in Oschatz, entered the installation. Approximately 8 soldiers received instruction on 3 or 4 x 85-mm AA guns in the barracks yard on several days of observation.

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2. Between 2 and 7 March, the von-der-Goltz Kaserne (1802) in Riesa was occupied by approximately 500 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including about 80 percent with tank insignia, and some 100 soldiers including a major wearing blue-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia. The units in the installation were equipped with an estimated 40 T-34/85 tanks and, recently, with 2 T-54 tanks . An undetermined number of soldiers almost daily received instruction on the latter two tanks. On 2 March, T-34/85 tank was shrapnelled at the Riesa railroad station.

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3. Between 2 and 7 March, Camp Zeithain (1901) was occupied by approximately 1,500 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets. The majority of the soldiers wore tank and artillery insignia and a few motor transport and signal insignia. The installation was believed to be permanently occupied by the following units: a tank training unit with 6 T-34 tanks, 12 T-34/85 tanks, 3 JS tanks and 2 JSU-122 guns. an artillery unit with approximately 12 x 122-mm field howitzers, which were stored in the sheds at the south edge of the camp near the quarters of the unit; and a second tank unit, weapons of which could not be observed so far. At about 0900 on 4 March, 8 T-54 tanks practiced driving west of the Roederau-Falkenberg railroad line. Ten soldiers practiced with a commander's telescope west of Camp Zeithain.

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Comment. The information vaguely confirms the following units of the 9th Tank Div: the 286th Engr Bn in the Mudra Kaserne in Riesa, the 22d Tank Regt in Oschatz, the 108th Tank Regt in the Von-der-Goltz Kaserne in Riesa and the U/1 How Arty Regt and the 95th Tank Regt in Camp Zeithain. The 216th (?) AAA Regt, which

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was previously believed to be stationed in Camp Zeithain, is apparently located in the Mudra Kaserne. This is also indicated by a shipment of light AA guns which went to Juterbog in January and a return shipment from Juterbog to Riesa. The 41 Sig Bn has been believed to be stationed in the Mudra Kaserne. It is undetermined whether the 671st Tank Tng Bn is stationed in Camp Zeithain or in the Mudra Kaserne. Provided that all arrivals from the USSR have been observed, the 9th Tank Div has been equipped with more than 30 T-54 tanks since mid-February.

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